



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 24th November 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

It was good to see the whole church family come together last week for that sadly rather timely reminder of the importance of Safeguarding. One of the items I held up as being central to our Christian understanding of Safeguarding was a bowl and towel symbolizing Jesus' demonstration of selfless love at the Last Supper when he washed his disciples' feet. It is fitting therefore that we return to our sermon series this week, The God Story, and focus on The Passion, the final week of Jesus' life. Well, we had an early preview of Jesus' birth a few weeks ago, so why not an early Easter?! On a somewhat different note, I'm looking forward to seeing a full church on Saturday night when comedian Tim Vine hosts a fundraising quiz for our mission partners Yogya and Sally Singh (Bridges Nepal). Incidentally, Tim and Sally are old friends. Tickets sold out many weeks ago but I hope that those who are coming have a great time to support a great cause. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## FRED RENNO'S FUNERAL

Fred's Funeral will take place at 9.30am on Thursday 28th November at Randall's Park, Leatherhead, followed by a Wake at The Star, Leatherhead Road. Anyone from the St John's family is welcome to attend. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## ZOOM

Our Sunday service is streamed via <https://stoneleigh.tv>. Any problems, please let us know.

**Tim Rogers**

## MIDWEEK SERVICES

We don't often mention them, but a worship service takes place in the chapel every Monday and Wednesday morning at 9.30am. On Monday we hold Morning Prayer, a short service (20 mins or so) that follows the Church of England's cycle of daily prayer. This service is Zoomed so you can join in from home – just let me know and I can send you the link. On Wednesdays we celebrate Holy Communion with the 'old language' of the Book of Common Prayer. This lasts about 40 minutes. Please feel free to come even if only on an occasional basis. It's a wonderful way to start the day. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**



## CHURCHES TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS



Are you alone at Christmas this year? Come and join us for a traditional festive dinner. 'Churches Together in Ewell' is pleased to offer a Christmas dinner plus festive activities to all who would otherwise be on their own.

**Christmas Day 12:30 – 4.15** at a local church. This offer is open to all Ewell residents. Transport can be arranged. **No charge.** To join us call: 07999 80475 or email:

[Christmas.dinner@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:Christmas.dinner@dsl.pipex.com). Please pick up a flyer at the Welcome Desk at the front of Church.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

This year's Carol Service will take place on Sunday, 15th December at 6.30pm and as in previous years we look forward to putting together a Christmas Choir. We welcome people of all ages and abilities. The dates for choir practice are as follows:

- Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm – 9pm
- Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm – 9pm
- Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm – 9pm
- Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 4pm – 6pm

I really do hope that as many of you can join us again this year as part of our Christmas festivities here at St. John's and please share this with your family and friends too. If you are planning to be part of our Christmas Choir and haven't already contacted me, could you please email me at [chris.webb@epicc.org.uk](mailto:chris.webb@epicc.org.uk) **Chris Webb**

## PRAYER INITIATIVE FROM EWELL CHURCHES TOGETHER

Do you feel a call to pray blessing on your local area? Would you like to pray with local Christians from other churches? If you would like to explore the possibility of gathering with others for inter-church prayer - either in person or over zoom, please feel free to contact me.

I would love to hear from you! **Paula Smith**  
[paula.smith@mybroadbandmail.com](mailto:paula.smith@mybroadbandmail.com)

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

I would like to thank all those who filled out a stewardship pledge form to increase/start a regular financial donation to St John's. The initial results suggest we have seen an uplift of around 5% in our planned giving which is encouraging but still leaves us with some work to do to close the gap against our committed expenses. If you have not considered your giving to St John's yet, can I please ask you to do so. Please ask me, one of the church wardens or our Treasurer if you are unsure on how to do this. And if you have not yet done so, can I ask you to watch this video which will give you an insight on our current situation:

[www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/stewardship](http://www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/stewardship).  
**Rev Geoff Andrew**

Thanks.

## SEASON OF MUSIC & COMEDY 2024

December 13, 6.30pm: Rock Choir (preceded by carols on the lawn) (£5/ticket)  
December 21, 5.30pm: Movie Night: It's a Wonderful Life (£5/ticket)  
A sign-up sheet for each show can be found in the welcome area.  
**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

Hello to our friends at St John's Church

The people of Ukraine are now going into their third winter under bombardment. We are so grateful to everyone who has been donating items for them since February 2022. We have now received a list of items needed for Christmas. Anything donated before the end of November will be delivered to the people of Ukraine who cannot leave the country or to the refugees in Poland. We know there are many calls on your time and money and we are so grateful for everything received. If you can please donate: Chocolate tubs: e.g. Celebration, Heroes, Quality Street, Biscuit selection boxes, Assorted roast nuts, seeds etc., Hot Chocolate, instant coffee, tea bags, Sugar, Soup packets, Tins of fruit and vegetables, Custard, Long life baked goods, Childrens' Toys (new only). Please put them in the box marked Ukraine at the front of church.

I also take cheques made payable to Shelly Wieczorek or you can donate money online at the "White Eagle Club Ukraine Appeal" on Facebook, Instagram or X.

Thank you again. **Shelly Wierzorek, Coordinator, White Eagle Ukraine Appeal**

### **FOODBANK**

Please pick up a Foodbank Flier from the welcome desk. It lists the items needed to make up the Christmas parcels. All the packing and preparations are done by the volunteers on top of their regular work in maintaining food assistance to those that need it - consequently you'll see that they ask for these items by 10th December please. Cash donations will be used for fresh meat and vegetable vouchers or gift cards to enable the families who are having a particularly hard time to get a present for their children.

They also need these items to maintain regular stocks:- Cooking Sauces, Beans/Pasta with Meat, Packet Soup, Instant Mash, Squash, Ketchup/Brown Sauce, Marmalade/Honey/Chocolate Spread, Sugar (500gr), Rice Pudding, Chocolate Biscuit Bars, Long life Sponge Puddings, Crisps, Deodorant (Male/Female), Shaving Foam, Adult Toothbrushes, Tampons, Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder.

**They are also desperate for:-** Loo Rolls, Powdered Milk, Long Life Juice.

This is an expensive time for everyone so we are particularly grateful for all your support.

### **NOTHING LIKE A GOOD SING**

The Good Company wishes to celebrate their community by holding their first ever Carol Service and we are invited to attend. It will be on The 4th December, 6 - 7pm followed by mince pies and drinks at St Barnabas, Temple Road, Epsom, KT 19 8 HA . If you'd like to come along to this free entry event please book your tickets using the link below. There will be a collection in support of the Good Company's food provision projects (Epsom and Ewell Foodbank and the Pantries in Epsom and Banstead.)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/good-company-community-carols-tickets-1072995822389?aff=oddtcreator> **The Foodbank Team**

### **Today's Services**

After three years of public ministry, three years of proclaiming and demonstrating the Kingdom of God, Jesus ministry climaxes with seven days that changed history. We call that week leading up to the Resurrection, 'The Passion', and it is so important that all four gospel writers devote at least one third of their entire books to those eventful days. God's plan for the restoration of creation and the salvation of humankind is finally revealed in our suffering Saviour. We have all been invited to join the Eternal Family. How do we make that truth an ongoing reality in our lives?

### **Readings**

### **Isaiah 53:11-12**

After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

### **Luke 23:44-46; 50-56; and 24:1-8**

<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' When he had said this, he breathed his last.

<sup>50</sup> Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, <sup>51</sup> who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup> Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. <sup>53</sup> Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>54</sup> It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

<sup>55</sup> The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. <sup>56</sup> Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

**24** On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup> "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words. the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

### **Collect**

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

### **Intercessor**

### **Music 9.30am**

1. I Will Sing the Wondrous Story
2. All Glory Laud and Honour
3. As the Deer
4. During Communion: What a friend we have in Jesus
5. Thine be the Glory

### **Music 11am**

1. O Praise the Name
2. Jesus Paid it All
3. As the Deer
4. This is Amazing Grace

### **Book of Remembrance**

Jean Abbotts  
Katherine Theresa M M Hamilton